

Serial No. 10/604,553
Art Unit 2871

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claim 1 through 12. (Cancelled).

Claim 13. (Currently amended) An apparatus for forming an alignment layer on a substrate of a liquid crystal display, comprising:
an irradiation source; and
a mask between the substrate and the irradiation source, said mask being ~~deformed~~ curved in a plane perpendicular to the substrate.

Claim 14. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising an external force exerted on said mask for deforming the mask.

Claim 15. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said mask is dynamically deformable.

Claim 16. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said mask comprises an edge that is deformed in a plane parallel to the substrate.

Claim 17. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 16, further comprising an external force exerted on said mask for deforming the mask.

Claim 18. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said mask is dynamically deformable.

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Claim 19. (New) An apparatus for forming an alignment layer on a substrate of a liquid crystal display, comprising:
an irradiation source; and
a mask between the substrate and the irradiation source, said mask having an edge that is warped in a plane perpendicular to the substrate.

Claim 20. (New) The apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising means for exerting an external force on said edge, said external force being sufficient to warp said edge.

Claim 21. (New) The apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said edge is deformed in a plane parallel to the substrate.

Claim 22. (New) An apparatus for forming an alignment layer on a substrate of a liquid crystal display, comprising:
an irradiation source;
a mask between the substrate and the irradiation source, said mask having an edge, wherein a distance between said edge and the substrate differs along at least a portion of said edge.

Claim 23. (New) The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said edge is deformed in a plane parallel to the substrate.